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#5
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AS SEEN ON:

CN
CARTOON NETWORK™

Campfire Secrets

ART BALTAZAR
FRANCO
CHRISTOPHER JONES
DAN DAVIS

RATED E everyone dckids.com

2011

MOUNT JUSTICE.
JULY 20, 21:32 EDT

CH 099

SEEN IT. SEEN IT. SEEN IT. SEEN IT. DON'T WANT TO SEE IT.

BORING. DON'T OWN ANY STOCKS. ALREADY GOT A *SLAP CHOP*. SEEN IT. SEEN IT. SEEN IT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GET *SIX HUNDRED* CHANNELS ON THIS THING AND THERE'S *NOTHING* ON.

!

HEY THERE.

OH. HELLO, WALLY.

HEY! ARE YOU BUSY?... UHHH... I MEAN...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

NOT MUCH. I WAS JUST GOING TO MAKE A SANDWICH. WOULD YOU LIKE ONE?

ARTIAN RONICLES

OH. NO, THANKS.

BESIDES, I PRETTY MUCH CLEANED OUT EVERYTHING THAT WAS IN HERE ANYWAY.

WHICH REMINDS ME, SOMEONE *NEEDS* TO GO SHOPPING. YOU GOT ANYTHING PLANNED FOR TONIGHT?

NO. I WAS JUST PLANNING ON HANGING AROUND THE CAVE TONIGHT.

OH, REALLY? THAT'S COOL! HEY... UHM... HERE'S AN IDEA, DO YOU, LIKE, WANT TO GO TO THE MOVIES?

SURE I WOULD LOVE TO!

BUT... I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

OH.

ME NEITHER.

HOW ABOUT *SURFING*? DO YOU WANT TO GO SURFING? YOU AND I CAN HIT THE WAVES, I COULD TEACH YOU HOW TO SURF *KID FLASH* STYLE!

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IN THE *DAYTIME*?

OH... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, PROBABLY TOO DARK OUT.

THERE'S A FULL MOON OUT TONIGHT. WANT TO SIT OUTSIDE AND LOOK AT THE STARS?

OH. *THAT* SOUNDS NICE.

GREAT! WE CAN BUILD A *FIRE* AND EVERYTHING.

OH! *A FIRE*?

YEAH, YOU KNOW, A NICE *ROARING* CAMPFIRE... OH, WAIT, SORRY, I FORGOT.

NO. IT'S OKAY. AS LONG AS I DON'T HAVE TO SIT TOO CLOSE...

GREAT! TONIGHT WOULD BE *PERFECT*! WE CAN ROAST MARSHMALLOWS AND EVERYTHING!

MARSHMALLOWS? I'VE *NEVER* HAD A MARSHMALLOW BEFORE!

WE CAN MAKE S'MORES. YOU KNOW, WITH GRAHAM CRACKERS, CHOCOLATE AND STUFF.

I'VE *HEARD* OF THEM BUT NEVER HAD ONE. CAN WE MAKE *THOSE*?

YES!

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?

GREAT!

OH! THIS IS GOING TO BE *VERY* EXCITING!

GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES AND I'LL GRAB SOME THINGS AND WE CAN GO.

A FEW MINUTES LATER.

...GATHERED A COUPLE OF CHAIRS, SOME FIREWOOD, SCROUNGED THE PANTRY FOR GRAHAM CRACKERS, CHOCOLATE AND MARSHMALLOWS AND NOW WE'LL COZY UP TOGETHER OUTSIDE--

--JUST THE *TWO* OF US?

WE'RE GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE STUFF THAN THAT IF WE'RE GONNA GO CAMPING!

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, I INVITED ALL THE OTHERS TO JOIN IN THE FUN WITH THE S'MORES!

THIS WAS A *GREAT* IDEA, DON'T YOU THINK WALLY? CAMPING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

I DON'T REMEMBER INVITING YOU. BESIDES, I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT *CAMPING*. I SAID A CAMP *FIRE*. BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUST A CAMPFIRE AND THE WHOLE CAMPING THING. I DON'T LIKE CAMPING... OUTSIDE...

UNLESS OF COURSE I'M CAMPING WITH THAT *SPECIAL* SOMEONE.

DUDE, KINDA BORDERING ON CREEPY.

WELL, I THINK ALL OF US CAMPING IS A *WONDERFUL* IDEA!

SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO THINK SO.

SHE'S PROBABLY ON A SUGAR OVERLOAD.

THANKS TO WALLY, I GET TO TRY *S'MORES* FOR THE FIRST TIME!

WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M A SWEETIE! HA! GET IT? CAUSE S'MORES ARE SWEET?

SO, THIS IS WHAT YOU DO WHEN YOU GO CAMPING?

SLEEP IN THESE *FLIMSY* THINGS CALLED "TENTS" AND SIT AROUND THE FIRE?

YEAH, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH ABOUT IT SO IF YOU FEEL LIKE HEADING HOME I CAN SIT OUT HERE WITH MS. M... ALONE.

YOU'RE ABOUT AS SUBTLE AS A TRAIN WRECK, YOU KNOW THAT?

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CATCH ANY FISH UNLESS YOU GO FISHING DUDE.

SORRY. NO OFFENSE.

NO, USUALLY YOU SIT AROUND THE CAMPFIRE AND TELL STORIES.

OH! I WOULD *LOVE* TO HEAR YOUR STORY, KALDUR. COULD YOU TELL US HOW YOU BECAME AQUALAD?

I WAS THINKING MORE OF A GHOST STORY TYPE OF THING BUT I GUESS... WHATEVER.

OH. I SUPPOSE I COULD DO THAT IF YOU DO NOT THINK IT WILL BE TOO BORING.

NOT AT ALL! I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR IT!

WELL, I GREW UP IN THE CITY OF *SHAYERIS*, WHICH IS A CITY IN ATLANTIS. SURFACE DWELLERS THINK ALL ATLANTEANS ARE THE SAME, BUT OUR KINGDOM HAS MANY CITIES, MANY PEOPLE, MANY CULTURES.

WHEN I WAS TWELVE, I COMPLETED MY EDUCATION AND BEGAN MY MANDATORY SERVICE IN THE ATLANTEAN MILITARY, WHICH IS STANDARD FOR ALL AT THAT AGE. AFTER A WHILE I WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE PRESTIGIOUS CONSERVATORY OF SORCERY IN THE ATLANTEAN CAPITAL OF POSEIDONIS.

"QUEEN MERA IS THE HEAD MISTRESS OF THE CONSERVATORY AND WIFE OF KING ORIN, AQUAMAN."

"IT WAS A VERY DIFFERENT TIME FOR ME.

"IT WAS DIFFICULT, AS IT WOULD BE FOR ANYONE AT AGE FOURTEEN I SUPPOSE, BUT ALSO A TIME IN MY LIFE WHERE I MET FRIENDS THAT I KNOW WILL BE WITH ME FOR A LIFETIME.

"THEN CAME A DAY... A ***HORRIBLE*** DAY WHEN POSEIDONIS WAS ATTACKED BY THE OCEAN MASTER. I CAN REMEMBER IT VIVIDLY, AS IF IT HAPPENED ONLY YESTERDAY.

"IT WAS THE DAY AQUAMAN NEARLY MET HIS END.

"AQUAMAN AND OCEAN MASTER FOUGHT FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE HOURS.

"WHEN AQUAMAN AND OCEAN MASTER CLASHED, IT SEEMED TO SHAKE THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF THE CITY."

"OCEAN MASTER HAD GAINED THE UPPER HAND AND NEARLY DEFEATED AQUAMAN.

"CORRECTION.

"AQUAMAN *WAS* DEFEATED.

"GARTH, A FELLOW STUDENT, AND I INTERVENED ON THE KING'S BEHALF.

"IT WAS THE ONLY THING WE COULD THINK OF DOING. THE DANGER DID NOT OCCUR TO US, THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERED TO US AT THE TIME WAS THAT OUR KING WAS IN TROUBLE.

"WE HAD NO HOPE OF DEFEATING HIM WHATSOEVER, BUT THE TIME WE SPENT ENGAGED IN BATTLE AGAINST THE OCEAN MASTER WAS TIME ENOUGH FOR OUR KING TO RECOVER.

"IT MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MOST FOOLISH THINGS GARTH AND I HAD EVER DONE, AS WE NEARLY MET OUR OWN END.

"THAT WAS ALL HE NEEDED AS AQUAMAN FINALLY *TRIUMPHED* OVER OCEAN MASTER!

"HE WAS ABLE TO DRIVE HIM AWAY FROM THE CITY AND SAVE US ALL!"

"AQUAMAN IS A BEING OF TWO WORLDS. ON THE SURFACE WORLD HE FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL BEINGS. UNDER THE SEA HE IS A LEADER TO MANY. BOTH CARRY THE WEIGHT OF RESPONSIBILITIES. OVERWHELMING RESPONSIBILITIES ONLY EVEN THE BEST OF MEN CAN CARRY FOR SO LONG.

"EVEN AQUAMAN CANNOT DO BOTH FOREVER.

"REALIZING THAT ON THE SURFACE BOTH BATMAN AND GREEN ARROW HAD TAKEN ON *APPRENTICES* THAT COULD ONE DAY TAKE OVER THEIR RESPECTIVE MANTELS, KING ORIN HAD BEEN CONTEMPLATING THE SAME IDEA.

"WITH THIS IN MIND, HE APPROACHED BOTH GARTH AND MYSELF WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING HIS PROTÉGÉS.

"I MUST ADMIT THE POSSIBILITY INTRIGUED ME IMMEDIATELY.

"I HAD NEVER BEEN TO THE SURFACE WORLD. AND I AM THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT I AM A BIT OF AN ADVENTURER. MANY IS THE DAY IN CLASS THAT I WOULD DREAM OF VISITING DISTANT OCEANS AND POSSIBLY ONE DAY EVEN THE SURFACE WORLD.

"BOTH GARTH AND I *SERIOUSLY* CONSIDERED THE KING'S OFFER.

"GARTH ULTIMATELY CHOSE TO CONTINUE HIS STUDIES WITH QUEEN MERA AT THE CONSERVATORY OF SORCERY.

"FOR ME, HOWEVER, THE CHANCE TO VISIT THE SURFACE WORLD WAS A DREAM COME TRUE."

"SO AT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN, I BECAME AQUALAD.

"I MISS MY FRIENDS. GARTH. TULA...

"BUT THE CHANCE TO WORK WITH MY MENTOR AND KING WAS AN OPPORTUNITY I COULD NOT PASS UP. I LIKE TO THINK THE WORK I AM DOING MAKES A DIFFERENCE."

THE REST OF THE STORY YOU KNOW. AQUAMAN BROUGHT AQUALAD TO THE SURFACE WORLD... AND NOW I AM HERE WITH YOU.

WOW, SO YOU *WANTED* TO BE AQUALAD?

YES. THE OPPORTUNITY AROSE. I COULD THINK OF NO OTHER PATH.

YEAH? IF YOU THINK *HE* WANTED TO BE AQUALAD SO BAD? LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT HOW *I* GOT STARTED.

"IT LITERALLY GOES BACK A COUPLE OF GENERATIONS...

"EACH GENERATION OF *FLASH* STARTED WITH A *BANG!* LITERALLY!

"JAY GARRICK WAS IN A FREAK LAB ACCIDENT.

"BOOM! THERE IT IS!"

"DURING THE 40'S AND THE 50'S HE WAS EVERYWHERE!

"THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE!

"JAY GARRICK WAS THE WORLD'S FIRST *FLASH*!

"THEN ONE DAY THIS GUY COMES ALONG, A HUGE FAN OF THE FLASH, WANTING TO KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS JAY GARRICK, BACK IN THOSE DAYS JAY DIDN'T REALLY HIDE HIS IDENTITY.

"HE CONTACTS JAY AND THE TWO SPEND HOURS AND HOURS TALKING ABOUT HIS ADVENTURES AND ABOUT THE ACCIDENT THAT TURNED HIM INTO THE FLASH.

"THIS GUY EVEN GOES SO FAR AS TO ***RE-CREATE*** THE ACCIDENT THAT CREATED THE ORIGINAL.

BUT WHERE JAY GARRICK'S ACCIDENT WAS A TOTAL FREAK THING, THIS GUY RECREATED THE ACCIDENT UNDER LABORATORY CONDITIONS. HE SET THE WHOLE THING UP IN A LAB AND *TRIED* TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

"RESULT? STILL A BIG EXPLOSION! BUT, LO AND BEHOLD HE BECOMES SPEEDY MCSPEED-SPEED HIMSELF!

"NOW HE'S THE *FLASH*! WELL, NOT THE ORIGINAL FLASH BUT THE NEW FLASH... THE FLASH WE ALL KNOW!

"I MEAN, THERE'S THE JAY GARRICK FLASH AND NOW THERE'S THE NEW FLASH. YOU KNOW, IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME THAT THEY COULD PROBABLY USE DIFFERENT NAMES. ANYWAY...

"...THIS TIME HE'S EVEN FASTER THAN FLASH, WELL, THE OLD FLASH... IT GAVE HIM EVEN ***MORE*** SPEED!"

OKAY, SO CHECK THIS! THE SECOND FLASH IS A FAN OF THE FIRST FLASH--JAY GARRICK. IT TURNS OUT GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE, CAUSE I WAS A FAN OF THE FLASH--THE SECOND ONE, NOT THE FIRST ONE.

WELL, I WAS A FAN OF JAY GARRICK, THE FIRST ONE AFTER I GOT TO KNOW HIM. HE WAS A LITTLE BEFORE MY TIME.

"LONG STORY SHORT, ONE DAY I WAS IN MY UNCLE'S HOUSE, STUMBLED ACROSS HIS NOTEBOOKS AND GOT THE SHOCK OF A LIFE-TIME!

"THAT WAS THE DAY I FOUND OUT MY UNCLE WAS *THE FLASH!*

"ONCE THE SHOCK PASSED A BIT, I KEPT READING. HE WAS KEEPING A JOURNAL OF ALL HIS EXPERIENCES AND EXPERIMENTS! ESPECIALLY THE ONE THAT MADE HIM THE FLASH, THE SECOND ONE, NOT THE FIRST--"

"WE GET IT ALREADY!"

"WHEN I FOUND *THAT* OUT, I WOULD KIND OF KEEP HINTING TO MY UNCLE THAT THE FLASH COULD MAYBE USE A PARTNER.

NO!

WHAT? WHY?

"I TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM THAT FLASH COULD *USE* AND PROBABLY *NEEDED* A PARTNER.

"I MEAN COME ON, BY THIS TIME BATS ALREADY HAD ROBBIE OVER HERE AND GREEN ARROW HAD SPEEDY! THIS WAS A NO-BRAINER!

"I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, FLASH WAS A BIT RESISTANT AT FIRST.

NO! NO PARTNERS!

I DON'T WANT THE RESPONSIBILITY.

DOES THIS SOUND CONFUSING TO ANYONE ELSE?

JUST LET ME FINISH AND YOU WILL BE CONFUSED NO MORE, SUPEY.

SO, HAVING SEEN HIS JOURNAL JUST LIKE HE SAW THE PREVIOUS FLASH'S, I TRY TO RE-CREATE THE EXPERIMENT WITH MY *OWN* CHEMISTRY SET.

"AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW? I WAS able TO DO IT!"

BOOM

THE EXPERIMENT ACTUALLY WORKED?

WELL...

WEST

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"NOT AT FIRST, ACTUALLY.

THIS IS *NOT* YOUR FAULT.

THEY WERE *MY* NOTES, IRIS. OF COURSE THIS IS MY FAULT.

"IT DIDN'T HAPPEN AT FIRST, BUT A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER... I WAS *OFF* AND *RUNNING*.

"I COULDN'T WAIT TO SHOW FLASH!

"WHEN HE SAW THAT I HAD POWERS, HOW COULD HE *NOT* WANT ME AS A PARTNER?

"YOU GUYS SHOULD'VE SEEN HIS FACE WHEN I SHOWED HIM!"

I CAN BE YOUR PARTNER! WE WOULD MAKE A GREAT TEAM!

I COULD BE...*KID FLASH!*

"THIS TIME HE *JUMPED* AT THE CHANCE TO HAVE A PARTNER!

"FLASH COULDN'T WAIT TO SHOW THE WORLD!

"THE FLASH WAS BEYOND ECSTATIC! HE COULDN'T CONTAIN HIS *EXCITEMENT*! IT WAS THE GREATEST DAY IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD!

"WHY, YOU ASK?

OKAY.... YOU CAN BE KID FLASH. BUT YOU DO *EXACTLY* AS I SAY, WHEN I *SAY* IT.

JUST FOR THE RECORD, WE DIDN'T.

"THAT'S THE DAY THE WORLD GOT *KID FLASH!*"

YOU.

ARE.

WELCOME.

YEAH. WE'RE ALL THRILLED YOU'RE SO SPEED-CAPABLE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? *JEALOUS*?

SHEEYEAH, *RIGHT*! JEALOUS OF *YOU*?

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT HOW YOU GOT STARTED, ROBIN?

HAHA! SNORT

ARE YOU *KIDDING* ME? *BATS* WON'T EVEN LET HIM TELL YOU HIS REAL NAME!

HAHAHAHA! I MEAN...

YOU'LL PROBABLY GET A BETTER ORIGIN STORY OUT OF SUPEY OVER HERE.

BUT YOU ALREADY TOLD ME HIS STORY. DIDN'T YOU? YOU SAID THAT THE THREE OF YOU RESCUED HIM FROM CADMUS.

YEAH, WE DID.

YES. CHRONOLOGICALLY, SUPERBOY IS ONLY 16 WEEKS OLD.

... AND YOU HAVE NO MEMORY OF THINGS BEFORE BEING RESCUED?

I HAVE SOME MEMORIES... FROM THE G-GNOME.

IT WOULD TEACH ME ABOUT THE WORLD OUTSIDE WHILE I WAS IN THE CONTAINMENT POD.

SO YOU *CAN* REMEMBER THINGS? WHEN YOU WERE IN THE CONTAINMENT POD THEY WOULD FEED YOU INFORMATION AND YOU COULD REMEMBER IT, RIGHT?

I GUESS SO.

WELL IF YOU CAN REMEMBER WHAT THEY TAUGHT YOU, YOU MUST'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THINGS AS THEY FED YOU INFORMATION. WHAT DID YOU THINK ABOUT?

WHEN I WAS IN THE CONTAINMENT POD, I WAS FED...

... INFORMATION.

I REALLY DIDN'T START THINKING FOR MYSELF UNTIL AFTER I GOT OUT.

WELL, WHAT KIND OF THINGS DO YOU THINK ABOUT NOW?

THE *ONE* THING...

THAT'S *ALWAYS* ON MY MIND...

IS...

DESTROYING SUPERMAN.

WHAT'S THE STORY?

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TO BE CONTINUED...